

26th August 1925]

premises which lies in the cheri site itself with a view to test the water before actually sinking a well for them and the same action was prevented by the village munsif including a mirasidar of the place?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

Mr. R. VERRIAN :—“In this case also, may I know what steps have already been taken?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“With regard to clause (a) I understand that the District Labour Officer is making arrangements to provide house-sites, well and school, and as regards clause (b) I understand that the order has been withdrawn on the intervention of the Collector and the well will be completed as soon as possible.”

Forests.

Indianization of the Service of Conservators of Forests.

* 457 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what steps Government are taking to indianize the Forest Conservative service; and

(b) (i) whether Government have made or contemplate making any appointments for that purpose; and

(ii) if so, who have been appointed and what are their qualifications, place of birth, religion and antecedents?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the classified list of Forest Officers in the Madras Presidency (with Coorg) corrected up to 1st July 1925 from which it will be seen that of the last 11 officers appointed to the Indian Forest Service, 10 are Indians. Information as to their qualifications is appended.^a

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“Mr. Saldanha's question, as I understand, is as to how many Forest Conservators were Indians but here the numbers given relate to the whole Forest service, both European and Indian. May I request the hon. Member whether he will be pleased to look into the matter and, if there is absolutely no Indian Conservator appointed, to see that one is appointed next time?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“I will look into it, Sir.”

Jails.

Alleged rape of a female prisoner in the Adoni Jail.

* 458 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mastan Sahib, Sub-Jail Warder, Adoni, Bellary district, was transferred to Alur as a punishment for failing to report to the Sub-Jail Superintendent at Adoni that a female prisoner complained of rape by a police officer;

(b) whether the Divisional Officer, Adoni, held any inquiry into the alleged complaint and if so, with what result;

^a Printed as Appendix IV on page 845 infra.

[26th August 1925]

(c) whether the female prisoner was sent to any of the medical officers at Adoni for examination as to marks of alleged violence to her on the part of the said police officer; and if so, with what result; and

(d) whether, and if so, what action has been taken as regards the conduct of the police officer complained against?

A.—(a) The warder not only failed to report but gave a false statement that he had reported the matter to the Sub-Jail Superintendent.

(b) Yes. The Divisional Officer's inquiry showed that there was no truth in the complaint.

(c) Yes. The prisoner was sent to the lady doctor at Victoria Memorial Women's Hospital at Adoni and certified to have no injuries or alleged marks of violence.

(d) In the circumstances, there was no need to take any action.

Settlement of Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans.

* 459 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of this House the evidence or summary of the evidence of the witnesses, with their rank and qualifications, who support the project of the settlement of the Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans and state—

(a) who is the officer who was on special duty in the Andamans (see Legislative Council Proceedings, Volume XXIII, page 1024), on what duty he had been deputed there and under what circumstances he told the people of the conditions of life in the Andamans;

(b) whether he placed his statement in record before the official authorities;

(c) what he has to say about the Jail Committee's report on the conditions of life in the Andamans; and

(d) whether the report of that committee has been explained to the Mappilla prisoners who propose to settle there?

A.—(a) to (d) No witnesses have been examined.

Rao Sahib M. Kunhiraman Nayar, Deputy Collector, was the special officer. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the supplementary answers to question No. 653 given by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp at the meeting of the Legislative Council of the 26th March 1925 which give the information which the hon. Member seeks and in which reference is made *inter alia* to the views expressed by the Indian Jails Committee on the conditions they found in 1919. Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar explained to prisoners the actual conditions of life in the Andamans.

As the hon. the Member refers to the report of the Indian Jails Committee in 1919, the Government place on the table of the House a description* of the conditions in the Andamans at present which has been prepared by Major Barker who only recently served there. The Government trust that this will be of interest to hon. Members.

* Printed as Appendix V on pages 846-849 infra.